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or it may...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...happen later on down the line. So the fund is there. The Renal Fund, as you know, is not adequate either to the number of people who need help and this would be similar to that. It's a capped fund and that would have to be debated in the future if it were to be increased. But between the combination of hoping for a federal solution, which is maybe several years away, and knowing that our resources are limited, that was where I came up with the figure.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator, did you wish to respond, Senator Wehrbein? Senator Beutler, on advancement of LB 287 to E & R.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Thompson, let me ask a series of questions so that I can again better understand how this fits into the overall scheme of what we attempt to do in the health care area.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you respond, Senator Thompson?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: First of all, just with regard to the general approach, oftentimes we have bills in here that seek mandatory insurance coverage for different types of things and almost every year we pass at least one bill mandating insurance coverage on this or that. Give some explanation of why, for example, in this instance we are approaching this through a subsidy from...from the state as opposed to trying to mandate insurance coverage for these costs. And I would...I would ask for...to yield time to Senator Thompson.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: We do have insurance coverage for people. A lot of the people are insured. It's the "copays" or the caps that are hurting their situation.